

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4939
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 449

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

E.O. 11652: GDP
TAGS: OTRA NZ

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA VISITOR

REF: STATE 92501 (NOTAL)

1. WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANZUS ALLIANCE AND, AGAINST CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, ADVACATING THE RESUMPTION OF NPW VISITS, THIS SEEMS HARDLY THE TIME TO DEEMPHASIZE IN NEW ZEALAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA. THIS IS THE ONE BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II THAT NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN AND IT REMINDS THEM THAT THEY CAN NOT STAND ALONE.

2. MY SUGGESTION THAT ADMIRAL GAYLER COME TO NEW ZEALAND FOR THE CAROL SEA CELEBRATIONS WAS THE RESULT OF HIS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL BUT SHORT TWO DAY VISIT TO WELLINGTON WHERE HIS FRANK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS WERE WELL RECEIVED. THE FACT THAT HE WAS A HIGHLY DECORATED OFFICER OF THE CORAL SEA BATTLE MAKES HIS APPEARANCE AT A CORAL SEA CELEBRATION EVEN MORE APPROPRIATE.

3. I CAN NOT BELIEVE THE CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL
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SEA IN NEW ZEALAND WILL OFFEND THE JAPONESE ANY MORE THAN THE

CELEBRATION OF VETERAN'S DAY ON NOVEMBER 11TH THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD OFFENDS THE GERMANS.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, I AGAIN RECOMMEND ADMIRAL GAYLER'S VISIT TO
NEW ZEALAND FOR WHATEVER APPEARANCES CAN BE ARRANGED AT THIS LATE
DATE TO COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA. SELDEN

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